

Amendments to the Claims :

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Withdrawn).

12. (Currently amended) A device for treating the coating of bottles made of thermoplastic material ~~in accordance with the process described in claim 1~~ consisting of a chamber ~~(1)~~, having a first, a second, a third and a fourth delimited walls ~~(8, 15, 17, 18)~~, comprising the following elements:

- i. A first lower area ~~(2)~~ for treating bottles ~~(4)~~, and a second upper area ~~(5)~~ for treating bottles;
- ii. A furnace ~~(2')~~ placed inside the lower area ~~(2)~~ equipped with heating elements ~~(3)~~ suitable to emit thermal radiation; this furnace is delimited by a wall ~~(14)~~, part of the third delimited ~~outer~~ wall ~~(17)~~, an upper wall ~~(10)~~, and a lower wall ~~(11)~~ --both suitable to reflect the thermal radiation and allow gas to flow through;
- iii. Means suitable to create a flow of ambient air ~~(6)~~ and to control the flow rate;
- iv. A An inlet chamber ~~(12)~~ suitable to receive said airflow ~~(6)~~; delimited by the first and second delimited walls ~~(8, 15)~~ and by a door ~~(7)~~ communicating with a vertical duct ~~(19)~~, which is delimited by a the first delimited wall ~~(8)~~ and an element ~~(9)~~ that in turn communicates with said lower area ~~(2)~~ to permit air flow from the chamber ~~(12)~~ to said area ~~(2)~~;
- v. A chain having a plurality of chucks ~~(13)~~ that grip and hold the bottles in the furnace ~~(2')~~ when in proximity of the furnace and passing outside of it parallelly to the wall ~~(14)~~ provided with an opening adapted to allow the passage of the neck of the bottles, making it possible to keep the neck of the bottles outside the furnace ~~(2')~~ and to divide the airflow ~~(6)~~.

13. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 12 wherein the door ~~(7)~~ separates the inlet chamber ~~(12)~~ of the air from an outlet chamber ~~(16)~~ from which

the air, after passing from the lower area (2) to the upper area (5) and being heated by the heating elements (3), flows out of the chamber, said door (7) being adapted to be operated to inlet part of the hot air flowing out of the outlet chamber (16) into the inlet chamber (12).

14. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 12 wherein said wall (14) also serves to deflect part of the airflow coming from the duct (19) to area (2) to send it to the chucks (13) to cool the neck of the bottles.